

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00199 160826 Z

20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01

AID-20 /085 W

----- 075596

R 160758 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1510

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0199

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: STRIKE HITS U. S. FIRM

1. ALL 100 AFRICAN EMPLOYEES AT NEW INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER TRUCK ASSEMBLY PLANT AT PIETERMARITZBURG WENT ON STRIKE MAY 14 DEMANDING R5 WEEKLY WAGE INCREASE. STRIKE CONTINUING THROUGH SECOND DAY WITH POLICE ON HAND ENSURE TRANQUILITY OF REPORTEDLY ANGRY WORKERS. WORKERS HAVE APPEALED TO KWAZULU COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DLADLA TO INTERVENE AND NEGOTIATE THEIR BEHALF WITH IH. THERE NO INDICATION HOWEVER THAT IH WILLING NEGOTIATE WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN WORKERS.

2. COMMENT: INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER VIEWED LOCALLY AS ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYER. WAGES RECENTLY INCREASED TO STARTING SALARY R14 PER WEEK WITH AUTOMATIC INCREASE TO R18 PER WEEK AFTER 6 MONTHS EMPLOYMENT. AT OFFICIAL OPENING APRIL 10 AMERICAN BASED CORPORATE PRESIDENT BROOKS MCCORMICK NOTED THAT ALL AFRICAN EMPLOYEES WERE RECEIVING WAGES CONSISTENT WITH PDL LEVELS. STRIKE AT THIS PLANT PRODUCES THE RISING EXPECTATIONS AFRICAN WORKERS WHO SHORT WHILE AGO

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WOULD FIND IH PAY RATES ATTRACTIVE.
HOLMES

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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